REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 1, 16 and 27 and claims 45-56 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 11-14, 16-44, 58-62 and 64-77 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 11-14, 19-43, 58-62 and 64-77 and the conditional allowance of claims 1-9 and 16-18.

3.) Examiner Objections - Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 16 and 27 due to informalities. The Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner's approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 45-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Euget, et al. (US 6,816,479). The Applicants have canceled claims 45-56.

5.) Prior Art Not Relied Upon

In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure. None of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose Applicant's invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore,

respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-9, 11-14, 16-44, 58-62 and 64-77.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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